

Approved For Release 2001/03/02 : U.S., Soviet Swap Pairs Held as Spies

Priest, Student Freed
By Moscow for U.N.
Employee and Wife

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Staff Reporter

The United States and the Soviet Union yesterday announced a swap of two persons on each side who have been charged with spying.

The exchange, under negotiation for some weeks, involved:

- The Rev. Walter Ciszek, 58, a Jesuit priest born in Shenandoah, Pa. He entered the Soviet Union sometime before March, 1940, and was

U.S. official admits Ft. Meade sergeant "stole us blind" by selling secrets to Reds.

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jailed for alleged espionage shortly thereafter. He has a sister, Helen Gearhart, living in Washington.

- Marvin W. Makinen, 24, of Ashburnham, Mass., a Fulbright scholar, who had been studying at West Berlin's Free University; he was sentenced in 1961 to eight years for espionage after allegedly photographing military installations in Russia, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

- Ivan Dmitrievich Egorov, 41, a former United Nations Secretariat employee and Soviet citizen, arrested last July 2 and later charged with conspiring to spy for the Soviet Union.

rova, 39, his wife, arrested at the same time and charged with the same offense.

Two Leave Moscow

Father Ciszek and Makinen flew out of Moscow yesterday and are due in New York by commercial airliner this morning. The two Soviet citizens left New York by air last night a few hours after Federal Judge Joseph C. Zavatt dismissed the charges against them at the request of the Department of Justice.

"Two for two?" Judge Zavatt asked United States Attorney Joseph P. Hoey. "Yes," was

the reply.

However, officials here said they did not concede this was a swap of two spies for two spies. The United States has never admitted Makinen's guilt and the case of the priest apparently had never been dis-

closed before yesterday when newsmen were told of the swap.

Officials here said the United States did not know of the priest's whereabouts until 1955. It was another year before the Russians admitted holding him. He had been accused of entering the Soviet Union on a false passport and had been sent to Siberia for many years. The charge was that he had used the false name of Lapinski and had engaged in intelligence activity.

The Egorovs were charged with conspiring to transmit information about rocket launching sites, atomic weapons shipments and other aspects of American defense. They were arrested along with another couple whose real names are unknown but who used the assumed names of Robert K. Balth and Joy. Jim Balth. The "Balthes" were arrested in Washington and the Egorovs in New York.

The Soviets repeatedly demanded release of the Egorovs but have paid no attention to the "Balthes." The latter couple is due to go on trial next month.

The swap yesterday immediately called to mind the deal by which U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers, 31, traded for Soviet间谍 spy Rudolf Abel on Feb. 11, 1961, after both had served part of long prison terms. In that case the United States had admitted Powers was not the swap itself was that a Soviet admission that Abel was indeed that year exchanged.

At the time of that swap efforts were made to include Makinen along with Powers, but the Soviets refused.

Yesterday's move brought to four the number of persons charged with spying for the Russians who have been allowed to leave the United States before standing trial.

The other two, Igor Melekh, a Soviet citizen, and Willie Hirsch, a German, were set free in February, 1961, following release of American crewmen on the downed RB-47 plane. The release of the crewmen came immediately after President Kennedy's inauguration but the release of the two charged with spying was never admitted to have been part of a deal with Moscow.

Officials here said the latest swap had no connection with the Thursday visit to President Kennedy of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. However, it appeared to be part of the general lessening of East-West tensions in recent months, prior to the new Berlin affair Thursday and yesterday.

Swapping spies, or those charged with spying, is something relatively new for the United States. In his just published book, the former Central Intelligence Agency chief and spy boss, Allan W. Dulles, questioned the Powers-Abel deal as "a precedent which may have some unfortunate consequences."

Dulles wrote that the Soviets might want to build up a "backlog" of Americans and thus be tempted to arrest casual visiting Westerners who have CIA RDP7000058R000200070082-2

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